2/2/70

Dear Harold,

I arrived home safely and made good time too (although I managed to get caught in a massive downpour). After a few preliminary things I had to get done, I sat down to write you to express my thanks for this past weekend. And what can I say? How could I ever express what is in my heart? You know that it is impossible. I can only say thank you a million times over to both you and Lil for everyhting you've done for me--and that is a list of things just too numerous to put down on paper.

I'm enclosing some carbon paper for you which I hope you will find use for. Also enclosed is the Specter article I promised.

There isn't much for me to respond to in the letters from you which awaited me at home. On Bishop, I'll have to check the portions you indicate and then draft a letter to him. On 399 and Dick's memo, you know that I agree that there is metal missing. In fact, I got my print of the base picture today and am convinced of it. I have some assorted comments to make on the memo but will wait till I get a chance to go over it again. Dick seems to have forgotten some things(the significance of which I do not know) like the crannelure in 399 and the fact that bullets fired in cotton can be mutilated--look at one of Frazier's test bullets; it's all twisted.

One more thing: I got a letter from Wecht today in which he strongly indicates that the word "puncture" in reference to bullet wounds just means a perforating gunshot wound, not specifically entrance. This does not detract from the change in the protocol. As I see it, "puncture" used there has more connotation than denotation in light of its exclusive application to wounds of entry throughout the draft. Even so, we'd have to be suspicious since Humes isn't really describing these things forensically. If you do have a source which says that puncture definately means entrance, please tell me. I still feel that the significance in relation to this particular holograph is unchanged.

Harold, I know that you do not want me or my parents to feel obliged to you for all of your fine hospitalities. True, neither of us would let it be that your unselfish gestures go unrewarded. And, you must understand, we all want to do this. It is not only to me but to a crucial and honest task that you have devoted so much of your resources. Unfortunately, this has materially depleted you, and both you and your wife have had to sacrafice much. I neither want nor expect you to look back on me and my family for what we have given you. But we deeply want to give and help. So, I hope you and Lil will accept and find use for the check we have enclosed. It is the least we can do.

Best wishes,

Howard